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An Additional New *Stenus* from Australia (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

100th contribution to the knowledge of Steninae¹

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In my "Revision of the Australian species of the genus *Stenus* Latreille" (1970) I listed one female with doubt under the species *S. maculatus* Macleay. Recently, I found in the Bernhauer collection the corresponding male, thus adding a new species to the *maculatus*-group represented in Australia.

My thanks are due to Mr. H. Dybas, Field Museum of Natural History, for the loan of the material in which the new insect was found.

Stenus* (*Parastenus*) *praedictus new species. Figure 1.

Closely related to and resembling *S. maculatus* Macleay and *S. pustulifer* Fauvel.

Description.—Black, moderately shiny, elytra brownish, each elytron with a very large orange-yellow spot. Head coarsely and rather densely punctate; pronotum coarsely punctate; the punctures coalescent in places; elytra with tortuous punctuation; abdomen finely and sparsely punctate. Antennae reddish. Palpi entirely reddish-yellow. Legs reddish, bases of femora and tarsi slightly paler, knees infuscate or brownish. Clypeus moderately densely pubescent, anterior margin brownish-yellow. Labrum dark brown, anterior margin paler.

Length : 6.5-8.0 mm.

Head distinctly narrower than elytra (2000:2421 μ ; measurements given from holotype); frons very broad (average distance between eyes:1082 μ), concavely excavated, with two distinct longitudinal furrows; median portion as broad as each of the side portions, distinctly but shallowly elevated, slightly higher than level of inner

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eye margins. Punctuation coarse and dense; diameter of a puncture about as large as basal cross-section of third antennal segment; antennal tubercles smooth; interstices in narrow median longitudinal area of frons about as wide as diameters of punctures, those alongside middle distinctly smaller than half the diameter of a puncture; a very small smooth area present posteriorly near inner eye margins.

Antennae (paratype) moderately slender, when reflexed extending to about the posterior margin of the pronotum, penultimate segments about twice as long as broad.

Pronotum slightly longer than broad (1635:1588 μ), broadest behind middle, sides convex toward anterior margin (see below), distinctly concavely narrowed toward posterior margin. Surface with several deep impressions: one moderately deep, transverse, behind anterior margin; one deep, latero-transverse, somewhat behind middle; one shallow, transverse, near posterior margin; and a deep longitudinal impression medially, which is abbreviated in anterior and posterior fifth. Punctuation very coarse, coalescent near posterior third of longitudinal furrow. Diameter of a puncture about as large as largest x-section of 3rd antennal segment, interstices mostly narrower than one-half the diameter of a puncture, those in longitudinal furrow and alongside it sometimes larger, in places fully as large as the punctures.

Elytra distinctly broader than head (2421:2000 μ), distinctly broader than long (2421:2064 μ), shoulders prominent, sides distinctly divergent posteriorly, restricted in posterior quarter, posterior margin of each elytron separately emarginate in lateral third, inner two-thirds of elytra together deeply emarginate (sutural length:1553 μ). Each elytron with a very large yellowish spot (color deepens to orange at outer limits of the spot), rest of elytron dark brown. Spot as shown in Puthz, 1970, fig. 34, or slightly larger, separated from the suture by a distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters of a parasutural puncture, laterally extending toward the side margin. Punctuation of elytra very coarse, deep, and irregular, more or less distinctly separated near shoulders, at base of elytra, and near suture; rest of elytra with the punctuation confluent and on the light-colored portions completely tortuous.

Abdomen broad, moderately narrowed toward apex; paratergites broad with the posterior half depressed, only a few punctures basally; basal furrows of first tergites deep, with a distinct callus beside paratergital suture; 7th tergite with a membranous fringe at posterior margin (the insect is winged). Punctuation sparse, about equal from 3rd to 7th tergites, diameter of a puncture nearly as large as one inner eye facet, slightly coarser on last tergites; sides of first tergites with the punctuation somewhat denser than in middle, interstices laterally smaller than twice the diameter of punctures, larger medially; 7th and 8th tergites with a denser punctuation.

Legs moderately robust, posterior tarsi about three-fifths as long as posterior tibiae, first segment nearly as long as the following four segments together (834-294-200-329-423 μ), fourth segment deeply bilobed.

Entire body with a very fine but visible reticulation.

MALE : Trochanters without any spine or tooth. Femora enlarged, posterior femora conspicuously enlarged in about middle, curved in posterior third. Posterior margin of mesotibiae tooth-like, produced; metatibiae with a large preapical tooth. Metasternum shallowly impressed, finely and sparsely punctate, interstices very shallowly reticulated, shiny. Except the 9th, all sternites medially with the punctuation finer and denser than laterally and with a dense pubescence; in the

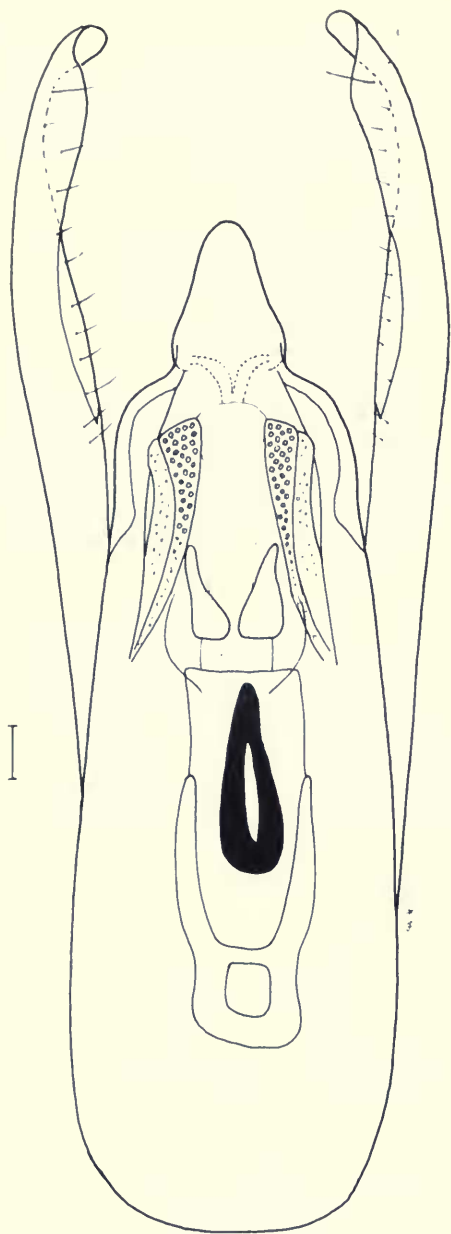


FIG. 1. *Stenus (Parastenus) praedictus* n. sp. Ventral aspect of aedeagus. Scale = 0.1 mm.

middle of sternites 3 and 4 the pubescence is conspicuously close, short, brush-like. 8th sternite with a nearly parallel-sided notch in about posterior quarter, apex rounded; 9th sternite broadly rounded apicolaterally, shallowly emarginate apicomediaally; 10th tergite broadly rounded. Aedeagus (fig. 1): median lobe broad, the apical portion curved, rounded and lancet-like in shape; inside there are longitudinal expulsion bands and three different strongly sclerotized structures (two expulsion mechanisms and the internal sac); parameres much longer than median lobe, with wrinkles and few fine setae.

FEMALE : 8th sternite rounded at posterior margin, slightly produced apicomediaally. Valvifers apicolaterally roundly produced. 10th tergite broadly rounded. Spermatheca distinctly sclerotized and spindle-shaped.

VARIABILITY : In the female paratype the punctuation of the frons is not as close as in the holotype. Also the pronotum has a different side-outline, being more parallel-sided in the middle, and has a small lateral callus behind anterior 6th. Because this callus is more distinct on the right side than on the left, I am sure that these differences from the holotype reflect intra-specific variation in this new species.

Discussion.—*Stenus praedictus* n.sp. can be distinguished from *S. maculatus* Macleay and *S. pustulifer* Fauvel by its narrower pronotum, denser and completely tortuous punctuation of the elytral spot, and sexual characters.

Because of genital structures, *S. praedictus* must be regarded as a sister species (*sensu* Hennig) of *S. maculatus* and *S. pustulifer*. The new species belongs to a monophyletic group which is derived from the Oriental stock. Other species of that group live in New Guinea (*gigas*-group : see Puthz, 1971).

Male holotype: Australia, Queensland, Evelyn, August, Mjöberg leg. (Bernhauer Coll., Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago).

Female paratype: Queensland, Maranda, Hill leg (coll. Puthz).

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